

PART 3 [RESERVED]

GENERAL

PART 3a—NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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AUTHORITY: E.O. 11652 (37 FR 5209, March 10, 1972), National Security Council Directive of May 17, 1972 (37 FR 10053, May 19, 1972), sec. 309 of the Federal Power Act (49 Stat. 858, 859; 16 U.S.C. 825h) and sec. 16 of the Natural Gas Act (52 Stat. 830; 15 U.S.C. 717o).

SOURCE: Order 470, 38 FR 5161, Feb. 26, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3a.1 Purpose.

This part 3a describes the Federal Power Commission program to govern the classification, downgrading, declassification, and safeguarding of national security information. The provisions and requirements cited herein are applicable to the entire agency except that material pertaining to personnel security shall be safeguarded by the Personnel Security Officer and shall not be considered classified material for the purpose of this part.

§ 3a.2 Authority.

Official information or material referred to as classified in this part is expressly exempted from public disclosure by 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1). Wrongful disclosure thereof is recognized in the Federal Criminal Code as providing a basis for prosecution. E.O. 11652, March 8, 1972 (37 FR 5209, March 10, 1972), identifies the information to be protected, prescribes classification, downgrading, declassification, and safeguarding procedures to be followed and establishes a monitoring system to insure its effectiveness. National Security Council Directive Governing the Classification, Downgrading, Declassification and Safeguarding of National Security Information, May 17, 1972 (37 FR 10053, May 19, 1972), implements E.O. 11652.

CLASSIFICATION

§ 3a.11 Classification of official information.

(a) *Security Classification Categories.* Information or material which requires protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of the national defense or foreign relations of the United States (hereinafter collectively termed *national security*) is classified Top Secret, Secret or Confidential, depending upon the degree of its significance to national security. No other categories are to be used to identify official information or material requiring protection in the interest of national security, except as otherwise expressly provided by statute. These classification categories are defined as follows: